

Anne Fesh

From: Jeffrey Bradley [bravo9@the-
Sent: Friday, November 10, 2000 4:08 PM
To: ACB
Cc: Vernon Metcalf
Subject: FCC Commission Ruling
November 6, 2000

Magalie Salas, Secretary

The Federal Communications Commission

445 12 Street SW

Washington, DC 20554

Re: Docket #99-339

Dear Secretary Salas:

On behalf of visually impaired persons I emphasize our appreciation to the FCC Commissioners for their July 21 ruling that provides video description for television programming. Sound reasoning supports this position and I commend the commissioners for their courageous decision. As a sighted person, I find video description a very special enhancement to my own viewing. Visually impaired persons deserve the fullest possible access to TV and I trust the commission will hold firm with this wise decision.

I sincerely hope that the FCC Commission denies petitions for reconsidering the ruling that requires television networks to begin video description of significant TV programs by April, 2002. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

Vernon Metcalf

jhb

11/10/2000

Anne Fesh

From: T.R. Miller [tr.miller@dol.net]
Sent: Monday, October 30, 2000 4:11 PM
To: access@fcc.gov
Cc: info@acb.org
Subject: Video Description "captioning" for
Attention: Magalie Salas, Secretary

Thank you for your action requiring TV networks to begin providing video descriptive service with programming.

The closed captioning for audio impaired people has been of great assistance to those who are hard of hearing in not only enjoying the content of TV programming but appreciating the content value of TV advertising. This is especially true where there is some national or regional accent that might impair understanding of what is being said.

I appreciate the ability of video descriptions being able to enhance the enjoyment and value of TV for those who have visual problems. My wife enjoys a number of programs - even though her enjoyment and understanding is substantially limited by the lack of sight. Video-description enhancement would make her TV experience much more enjoyable and beneficial AND much less frustrating -- she would have so much greater understanding of what is happening.

It is my understanding that there are those who are opposed to video description enhancement of TV programming and who are petitioning FCC to reconsider the order to add this feature to programming, per Docket No. 99-339. Please accept this correspondence as my opposition to those who would prevent that valuable feature to be added to TV programming.

I realize that adding the video description feature will cost money -- so does everything else we enjoy in this life. The value of closed captioning for the hard of hearing should provide enough understanding to also perceive the value of video descriptioning to the same TV programs.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments.

Sincerely,

Thomas R. Miller
P O Box 586
Rising Sun, MD 21911-0586

10/31/2000

Anne Fesh

From: Polkandlo@aol.com
Sent: Thursday, November 09, 2000 9:28 AM
To: access@cc.gov
Subject: essential information service to blind citizens

Dear Sir:

We appreciate what the commissioners of the FCC have done; fro their couragerous vote requiring networks to begin providing television that id accessible for blind and visually impaired citizens. Our visually impaired friends in North Carolina have enjoyed the video description and have been looking forward to April 2002 to enjoy television shows with their families and friends and to use the video descriptiom to help them understand the visual aspects of the programming.

Being a retired teacher from the Governor Morehead School for the Blind in Raleigh, N.C., I am now president of the Sir Walter Linexx Club and of the Bovernor NMorehead History and Archives Society. It is very imoirtant to the groups I represent to make this video descri[tion attainable for the visually impaired.

I am submitting these comments in opposition to petitioners for reconsideration of the reported order on video. Description)Docket Mo 00 - 339)

November 9,3000

Sincerely,

.S

Lois Moffett
ret. teacher. G.M.S.

Anne Fesh

From: A1952M@aol.com
Sent: Friday, November 03, 2000 3:56 PM
To: info@acb.org
Subject: Docket No. 99-339

I am submitting comments "IN OPPOSITION TO PETITIONERS FOR RECONSIDERATION OF THE REPORTED ORDER ON VIDEO DESCRIPTION".

I was happy to hear that the Commissioners of the FCC had voted to require the networks to begin providing video description of the key visual elements of television programming for blind and visually impaired viewers.

I think it is very important that anyone who cannot see the screen to have an alternate means (i.e., video description) for knowing what's happening on the television. I have a good friend who is blind and I know she would very much like to know what is happening on the screen.

I am, therefore in support of Docket No. 99-339 and hope that the FCC will not reconsider their July ruling.

Sincerely,

Audrey E. Monahan
A1952M@aol.com

Anne Fesh

From: Jeff Moyer [moyer@jeffmoyer.com]
Sent: Monday, November 06, 2000 12:56 PM
To: access@fcc.gov
Cc: info@acb.org
Subject: In Opposition to Petitioners

To: FCC
From: Jeff Moyer
Re: In Opposition to Petitioners for Reconsideration of the Reported Order
on Video Description Docket No. 99-339
Date: November 6, 2000

First of all, thank you for your historic action that promises to provide audio description for network television programming. This is a long overdue and seriously needed area of equal access and you are to be commended for your courageous leadership.

I have been losing my vision since I was a child. During the many years when I had useful vision that was limited, I would have to ask my family what happened when fast action or subtle gestures led to laughter or shifts in the drama that I did not understand. Now, however, as a blind person I find it impossible to enjoy television without constant reliance on my wife's good nature to provide running commentary on visual elements. When I can find videos with audio description, I am delighted - the titles are few and availability scant. Real time television access is equivalent to the deaf community's receipt of captioned television, which is now commonplace. I realize that there has been opposition to your action, but no new information was therein provided. You have done the right thing and must now stay the course. Thank you for your actions in the public good.

As a consultant on access, I am constantly working to open new forms of access, including audio description to channels of information in public places such as museums. Television itself is certainly a rightful medium for this access for the tens of millions of Americans with limited vision.

11/7/00

Ms. Magalie Salas
Secretary
The Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Caption: Docket No. 99-339

Dear Ms. Salas:

I am writing to express my support for the FCC decision to make video description of key visual elements of television programming available to blind and visually impaired viewers. Although I am not visually impaired, my career as a professional in special education and rehabilitation of blind persons has spanned nearly 40 years. During this time I have been aware of the lack of parity between television media communication for sighted persons and those without vision. Video description will go a long way toward erasing that disparity. My sincere thanks and congratulations to the FCC for its landmark decision to require that this service be provided.

It is my understanding that the FCC has been petitioned to reconsider its decision regarding video description. While I have not read the petition it is hard for me to believe that the petitioners could provide any new information that was not already known by the FCC at the time of the decision. Please regard my comments in this letter as being in opposition to the petitioners for reconsideration of the FCC order on video description and that I respectfully request that the original decision of the FCC be upheld.

Sincerely,

Gerald W. Mundy, Ed.D.
Executive Director

Anne Fesh

From: Marilyn Nelson [m8033@ndak.net]
Sent: Tuesday, October 31, 2000 1:57 AM
To: access@fcc.gov; info@acb.org
Subject: Docket No. 99-339 Video

Marilyn R. Nelson
1425 31st Avenue SW
Apartment 102
Minot, ND 58701
(701) 837-0988
e-mail: m8033@ndak.net

October 31, 2000

Magalie Salas, Secretary
The Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Docket No. 99-339

Dear Ms. Salas:

I wish to express comments in opposition to petitioners for reconsideration of the reported order on video description.

I do also want to express my appreciation to the Commissioners or the FCC for their vote requiring networks to begin providing video description services to people who are blind and visually impaired. It is extremely important for me to be able to have this service with my visual defect. I really look forward to being able to use video description starting in April, 2002 as I will finally be able to tell exactly what is going on in the programs that I watch.

The television, cable, motion picture industry, and the National Federation of the Blind have submitted "Petitions to Reconsider" video description. These petitioners have not provided any new information (which was not known to the FCC) when the decision was made to allow for video description. So few are trying to make something good for the blind and visually impaired sound like a bad thing. Believe me it is not a bad thing. It is very upsetting to watch something and not really know exactly what is going on with the entire program.

10/31/2000

Sincerely,

Marilyn R. Nelson

10/31/2000

[The Iris Network -- Focusing on Maine's Blind and Visually Impaired Since 1905]

October 31, 2000

Magalie Salas, Secretary
The Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Document No. 99-339

Ladies and Gentlemen:

This letter is written in Opposition to Petitioners for Reconsideration of the Reported Order on video description. I am a blind practicing lawyer, and in behalf of myself and in behalf of The Iris Network I want to express our appreciation for your vote requiring the television networks to begin providing the essential service of video description for television programming. The Iris Network, formally called the Maine Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired, focuses on serving the blind and visually impaired of the State of Maine.

Television is a major source of information and entertainment. It is important. It is essential for anyone who cannot see the screen to have an alternate means for understanding what is going on.

I and many of our constituents at The Iris Network are looking forward to April, 2002, when the audio descriptions will be available.

As I am sure the record in your proceedings shows, as our population ages so does visual impairment. The largest growing segment of our population loosing their vision or suffering vision loss are over 80 years of age. Thus, providing audio services on the television networks becomes more and more essential to our population at large, and especially to elderly people who perhaps must rely on television more than their younger friends who are more able to get out and around.

I understand that the Petitioners have not provided any new information which was not already known at the time the FCC reached its decision and issued the ruling on July 21, 2000. Accordingly we respectfully request that the Petition for Reconsideration be denied.

Sincerely,

Jeremiah D. Newbury
Chairman of Advisory Board of Trustees
The Iris Network

cc: Steven Obremski
President, The Iris Network

Anne Fesh

From: Harold Newsom [hgnewsom@uswest.net]
Sent: Thursday, November 02, 2000 6:30 PM
To: access@fcc.gov; info@acb.org
Subject: Copy of letter re Docket No. 99-339

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Harold G. Newsom
3030 W. Tuckey Ln.
Phoenix, AZ 85017
Nov. 02, 2000

Magalie Salas
FCC Secretary
445 12th St., SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Ms. Salas,

It was extremely good news to hear that the Commissioners voted in July to require the TV networks to implement video description service for people who are blind or who are visually impaired. As the husband of a woman who was totally blind and who got much information, satisfaction, and pleasure from the video description service provided by the Public Television Networks, I want to say that, if she were still living, she would be eagerly looking forward to having this wonderful service available on all the major networks. As a blind person she experienced the enormous clarification and enhancement provided by descriptive video of the scene on the TV screen as it occurred. Her life was greatly enriched as a result.

It is my opinion that descriptive video should be exclusively dedicated to assisting those people who are visually impaired. Blind people CANNOT learn to see their TVs. They must rely on a service such as descriptive video to fully understand what is being shown on the TV screen. Sighted people who speak another language CAN learn the language spoken on the TV programs.

This letter is written to oppose the efforts of the petitioners who are supporting the reconsideration of the reported order on video description, Docket No. 99-339. I hope the Commissioners will not be swayed by the arguments put forward by those who oppose the descriptive video ruling.

Please convey my support of the Commissioners in their upholding the effort to implement descriptive video on the TV networks.

Thank you for your help in this matter.

Very Truly yours,

Harold G. Newsom

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Anne Fesh

From: BNOCCA4@aol.com
Sent: Tuesday, October 31, 2000 11:07 AM
To: Access@fcc.gov
Subject: FCC Ruling re:descriptive television

FCC
Highview Terrace
Magalie Salas, Secretary
445 12th Street, SW
No.99-339
Washington, D.C.

11
Yonkers, N.Y.
Docket

Sirs:

We want to thank the commission for voting to require the networks to video describe their programs on TV. Without video description in the movies---except for General Cinema Theatres, I get shushed by other movie goers who do not understand that my husband, a judge here in Yonkers, N.Y. is legally blind, and that I am describing the action to him. We have bought the DVS video tapes of old movies and have enjoyed them very much. We brought a packet from General Cinemas to our local Cablevision station hoping they could adapt it at least locally.

How wonderful it would be to be able to enjoy the great programs offered by TV--the whole family together!

We understand that the petitioners have not put forth any new information that was not known at the time the FCC made its decision.

For all these reasons we are in opposition to petitioners for reconsideration of the reported order or video description.

Thank you.

Joseph and Barbara Nocca

Anne Fesh

From: Curt Noriega [cnoriega@codenet.net]
Sent: Thursday, November 09, 2000 11:46
To: info@acb.org
Subject: For your records

DeAnna Noriega

P.O. Box 1104

Manitou Springs, CO 80829-1104

Thursday November 9, 2000

Magalie Salas, Secretary

The Federal Communications Commission

445 12th Street, SW

Washington, DC 20554

Dear Ms Salas,

I am writing to express my gratitude for the July ruling by the FCC Docket No. 99-339, requiring that descriptive video be made available to the visually impaired on television. I have been totally blind since I was eight years of age and have very much enjoyed the descriptive video movies I have purchased for use by my family. Even my sighted spouse has found that he gains a clearer understanding of complex stories when the narration points out things he might have missed. I know it must be confusing to you when an organization purporting to represent the blind is one of the signers of the petitions to rescind the July ruling. I assure, you they don't speak for me and a lot of other visually impaired people. The NFB has had a long history of denial of the challenges facing blind people. They would like to believe that blindness is just a nuisance and that with proper training blind people can do everything any one else can do. Unfortunately, no matter how closely I listen, I can't determine exactly which character is striking another or even if a new one has arrived on the scene unless they announce the fact verbally. Television with a lot of action and little dialogue is almost completely obscure to me. As a responsible adult, I would like to monitor what the children in my care are being exposed to and can't do it effectively without more information. Thank you again for your courageous stand.

Sincerely,

DeAnna Noriega

11/9/2000

LAURA OFTEDAHL
1290 Bancroft Way
Berkeley, CA 94702-1851
510-848-0008 (residence)
510-851-3716 (cell)
E-Mail: Laurao@tsoft.com

November 6, 2000

Magalie Salas, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

RE: Video Description

Dear Ms. Salas:

I am writing to urge the Federal Communications Commission to DENY the "Petitions to Reconsider that it has received regarding its July 21 ruling on video description for television.

For ten years, I worked for WGBH Boston, and saw first-hand, how blind and visually impaired children benefit from video described programs. I was born blind and did not have the opportunity to share the television viewing experience with sighted family and friends. But kids today are learning from PBS programs that are described, and will be even better off socially and culturally when they have access to "all appropriate for video description" programming. It's tough growing up with a disability, but fortunately video description helps to level the playing field.

As for adults who are blind, having access to television programming allows us to be equal participants in the mainstream. I am able to join in the conversation around the office water cooler. I can learn through vivid descriptions about places and things I will never experience first-hand.

But there is a great deal of television that I would like to watch, but find it too frustrating without video description. Please hold fast on your video description mandate.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Laura Oftedahl

November 2, 2000

Magalie Salas, Secretary
The Federal Com. Com.
445 12th St., SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Ms. Salas:

My husband, Leo, is legally blind. Both he and I would like to express our sincere appreciation to the FCC Commissioners for your courageous vote requiring the networks to begin providing video description, an essential information service to people who are blind and visually impaired. We understand the July 21st ruling of the FCC is now under attack by petitions for reconsideration, so we are writing to let you know how important it is for us that your July 21 ruling stands.

Unless you are blind yourself, it can be difficult to imagine how really hard it is for someone who IS blind, so picture this: While everyone else is laughing at the antics of a comedian on TV, the blind man/woman/child sits silent, wondering at the laughter until someone DESCRIBES for him what was so funny. How much better if the program itself describes what is going on! And what if the blind person is ALONE, with no one else to describe it for him/her? Now, can you begin to see what a wonderful blessing the video description of TV programming is?

We have enjoyed several videos that came described for the sight-impaired at the Madison, IN, public library, but they were few, and here in Mayfield, KY, we don't even have that anymore. Since the petitioners have not provided any new information that was not already known at the time the FCC reached its decision and issued the ruling, the reconsideration is pointless. My family and friends are looking forward to turning on our TV sets in April, 2002, to enjoy TV shows with my blind husband, using the video description to help him understand the visual aspects of the programming. Please don't deny him that ability to enjoy with his loved ones.

This letter is IN OPPOSITION TO PETITIONERS FOR RECONSIDERATION OF THE
REPORTED ORDER ON VIDEO DESCRIPTION,
Docket #99-339. Thanking you

Sincerely,

Gloria (& Leo) Olney

cc: access@fcc.gov
info@acb.org

Anne Fesh

From: Lieknejs33@aol.com
Sent: Sunday, November 05, 2000 12:11 PM
To: VETS.ARE.BEST@worldnet.att.net
Cc: access@fcc.gov; info@acb.org
Subject: Descriptive video

The following letter was sent to the FCC secretary today:

Ivars Pakulis 642 Turney Road #119
Bedford OH 44146

November 4, 2000

Magalie Salas,, Secretary
The Federal Communications Commission
445 - 12th Street,, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Ms. Salas:

This letter is in reference to Docket No. 99-339. I would like to thank the Commissioners of the FCC for recognizing the need for descriptive video content in the media. For us blind and visually impaired individuals at present there are mostly talk shows where the action is not essential for understanding. It would be a great improvement in our quality of life if we could enjoy other visual programs with our sighted relatives and friends.

During blind rehabilitation I had an opportunity to "watch" a couple tapes of descriptive video. Like the name implies, it describes the action. It is not some awkward program with a tortured soundtrack. Think of descriptive video as a radio show with video enhancement. A radio show has to make sense or people would not listen to it. So does descriptive video make sense on the sound track. Good descriptive video is not intrusive like closed captions scrolling on the screen for hearing impaired viewers.

The description of action can be invisible to those not aware of the effort put into creating it. Let me illustrate the concept. If one can watch a movie with the eyes closed and understand the action, it is descriptive video. We blind and visually handicapped have learned how to "see" with our brain, if given a few clues. For example, take a gun fight scene from a Western. Bang, bang. We do not need an announcer to explain that they are shooting; we can hear the shots. But we cannot see who falls down. A "Got you, you low down skunk" or "Goodbye, Sheriff" turns the scene into descriptive video. A closing scene of the two lovers riding off into the sunset as the music swells is totally lost on those who cannot see. By adding a couple senior citizens remarking to each other what a nice couple John and Mary make, riding off into the sunset, enables the scene to be visualized.

I believe those who have petitioned to reconsider the FCC decision to require descriptive video in the near future are wrong. The ultimate goal of any presentation is to reach the largest audience possible. Programs suitable for the blind not only would attract the visually impaired but their friends and relatives. And it can be done without making the presentation less attractive to any other viewers. All it takes is to establish a balance between the sound and visual aspects of the program. By putting too much emphasis on the visual part and neglecting the importance of the sound track one runs the danger of regressing toward the era of the silent movies, where exaggerated gestures and motions had to carry the content of the story. Thus I consider the FCC ruling on descriptive video a commandment of "Thou shalt be successful." All it requires is a little awareness and consideration on the part of those involved with the creative process.

Sincerely,

Anne Fesh

From: Paula [pursha@valint.net]
Sent: Sunday, November 05, 2000 9:13 PM
To: access@fcc.gov; info@acb.org
Subject: Docket No. 99-339

I am submitting comments "In Opposition to Petitioners for Reconsideration of the Reported Order on Video Description".

I would like to thank the Commissioners of the FCC for their courageous vote requiring the network to begin providing this essential information service to people who are blind and visually impaired.

I am visually impaired and it is very important for me or anyone with an visual impairment to have an alternate means for knowing what's happening on the television. I am looking forward to turning my TV on in April, 2002 and enjoy shows with my family and use the video description to help me understand the visual aspects of the programing.

The petitioners have not provided any new information which was not already known at the time the FCC reached it's decision and issue the ruling.

Thank you.

Paula Partlow
1320 Pleasant Street
Walla Walla, WA 99362

Docket No. 99-339

Anne Fesh

From: Rich and Norma Patton
Sent: Thursday, November 09, 2000 5:36 PM
To: info@acb.org
Subject: video description

November 9, 2000

To Whom IT May Concern,

I am writing this letter in opposition to petitioners for reconsideration of the reported order on video description. My good friend is blind and uses this service all the time. He wishes to continue using it since it helps him greatly.

Please continue doing video description so he can continue to receive this wonderful service.

Sincerely,

Richard A. Patton

11/10/2000

Anne Fesh

From: William J. Pearson
[wjpearson@peoplepc.com]
Sent: Friday, November 10, 2000 5:19 PM
To: access@fcc.gov
Cc: info@acb.org
Subject: Docket No99-339
copy of my letter of 9 Nov. 2000

Magalie Salas, Secretary
Docket No. 99-339
The Federal Communications Commission
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Magalie Salas,

Subject: docket 99-339

This letter is to submit comments "In opposition to Petitioners for Reconsideration of the Reported Order on Video Description"

As a legally blind person I applauded the July vote of the FCC Commission requiring the networks to begin providing video description for the blind and visually impaired.

For those of us who can not see the screen or see clearly having an alternate is extremely important. I have to ask my wife to explain what is happening. I have been looking forward to enjoying, in April of 2002, the video program description..

Those organizations petitioning for rejection of video description have not provided any new information that was not known when the FCC made its decision and issued their ruling.

Thank you for considering my letter.

Yours truly,

william J. Pearson

William J. Pearson
wjpearson@peoplepc.com

Anne Fesh

From: Elizabeth Hutcheson
Sent: Tuesday, November 07, 2000 8:06 AM
To: info@acb.org
Subject: Video Description for Television Programming

Regarding Docket No. 99-339:

WE ARE SUBMITTING COMMENTS IN OPPOSITION TO PETITIONERS FOR
RECONSIDERATION OF THE REPORTED ORDER ON VIDEO DESCRIPTION.

We appreciate the ruling that FCC made in July concerning the descriptive feature to be included in television programming in the near future.

It is so frustrating for a blind person to hear a weather warning signal on TV and not be able to know just what this alert is all about. It is also aggravating to be listening to a commercial about something that may of an item that one would like to purchase but can't because the phone number and/or address is flashed across the screen but not verbally announced.

It would be a great feature to hear description while listening to a TV program. You can really be left hanging if a movie ends with a silent scene and you don't have a clue as to what is happening.

We, as members of the American Council of the Blind of Memphis Tennessee, strongly urge the FCC to stay with its original ruling that would provide this descriptive feature in the near future television programming.

Thank you so very much for your support in this matter.

Sincerely,
Penny Pennington
Dot Taylor
Jewell Hansbro
Sarah Harris
Richard Harris
of American Council of the Blind of Memphis Tennessee

Get Your Private, Free E-mail from MSN Hotmail at <http://www.hotmail.com>.

Share information about yourself, create your own public profile at <http://profiles.msn.com>.

Anne Fesh

From: Joseph Perry [jcpperry@lazerlink.net]
Sent: Thursday, November 02, 2000 7:03 PM
To: access@fcc.gov
Cc: info@acb.org
Subject: Descriptive television for the blind and visually
docket NO 99-339

Dear Magalie Salas:

I am writing in opposition to the recent petitions against the reported order on descriptive video on television networks to begin in April of 2002. I have been a proponent of description of television programs since its inception and I believe its inclusion on the major networks is long overdue. I certainly appreciate your courageous ruling of July 21st and have been looking forward to the time when I can tune in on any TV program and hear them described.

I find it difficult to follow a movie or weekly sereal on the major networks. Why? There are, at times, silent intervals when I don't know what's going on and abrupt sceen changes which are hard to understand without description. It was easy to follow the same kind of programs on radio, because the dialogue explained the action. This is not so with TV. I don't like to ask a friend or family member to describe these silent intervals or sceen change as it will distract them and they could miss something, too. I have trouble understanding why any blind or severely visually impaired individual would object to descriptive television. I believe it's only fair for the television networks to make this accomodation.

I hope and trust that the reported order of July 21st will stand fast and that we will finally be able to look forward to atleast some descriptive television on the major networks. I believe that the blind and severely visually impaired people of this country have that right! Thank you for your efforts on our behalf.

Sincerely,

Joseph Perry

11/2/2000

Anne Fesh

From: Lander718@aol.com
Sent: Tuesday, October 31, 2000 6:26 PM
To: access@fcc.gov; info@acb.org
Subject: (no subject)

JEAN A. PEYTON
1604 BLUESTONE DRIVE
LAS VEGAS, NV 89108
(702) 631-5548

October 31, 2000

Ms Magalie Salas, Secretary
The Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Docket No. 99-339

Dear Ms Salas:

I am writing to strongly voice my opposition to petitioners for reconsideration of the reported order on video description.

As a blind individual, I was delighted with the Commissioners courageous vote to require networks provide blind and visually impaired persons access to programming through video description. I am distressed that some in our

community think that this is not critical to inclusion. Seeing and hearing people have access; those who speak Spanish or have hearing disabilities have access; blind people do not currently have access. We only seek participation at the same level as others.

Though I receive news and weather information from television, most comedy and dramatic presentations are unavailable to me. I am unable to understand the nuances of facial expressions and cannot determine who is speaking without assistance of a seeing person. How nice it would be to 'see' the shows my friends discuss. Video described movies have been such a wonderful addition.

In July, 2000, the FCC Commissioners took a powerful position for the rights of all individuals. Those who disagree have petitioned for reconsideration. I urge you not to reconsider this landmark decision as the petitioners have not provided new information for consideration.

I look forward to video described programs on network television beginning in April, 2001, thanks to your wise decision. Please don't change your minds!

Sincerely,

Jean A. Peyton

Anne Fesh

From: SFWIFE67@aol.com
Sent: Sunday, November 12, 2000 2:38 PM
To: access@fcc.gov; info@acb.org
Subject: Descriptive Video

4480 Chalfonte dr.
Columbus, Ga. 31904
November 12, 2000

Meagerly Salas (secretary)
Federal Communications Division
445 12th st. s.w.
Washington, D.C. 20054

THIS OFFICIAL FILING DEALS WITH DOCKET #99-339.

My husband and I are submitting comments in opposition to petitioners for reconsideration of the reported order on VIDEO DESCRIPTION.

We appreciate your vote of July 17, 2000, which will require t.v. networks to begin providing this essential service to us. Although Crawford, my husband, has partial vision and can follow limited television programming, I, myself, am totally blind.

It was necessary for us to purchase a new television a couple of years ago. In making our decision, we considered only those machines which were built to receive descriptive video whenever it came available. We appreciate your courageous decision to make this service available to us in the near future. If we can assist in counteracting opposing positions, we will be happy to provide you with other necessary documentation.

Sincerely,
Desma and

Crawford Pike